



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Majority prices were unchanged in the West, mixed, but mostly unchanged elsewhere. Trade sentiment overall was steady at best. Demand into all channels was seasonally light to moderate with best movement into fast food, catering businesses, and for other holiday items. Supplies of all sizes were more than sufficient to handle trade needs. Processing schedules this week are part time with plants down one or two days in observance of Christmas Day, and some running Saturday. In the parts structure, movement was light and selective, and usually limited to regular commitments, with some shipments reduced. All items were mixed in availability, but were at least adequate or available. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

Final report of prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook broiler/fryers fob and delivered to first receivers at major market areas week of 12/22/03-12/26/03 (cents per lb)

US GRADE A

COMPOSITE

(Includes branded product)

AREAS	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	LOADS	WTD AVG	LOADS
Bos/New Eng	57.00-64.00	61.19	21	61.67	41
Chicago	56.00-59.00	58.67	32	61.44	62
Ohio Cities	TFEWR	---	---	61.92	30
Denver	73.50	73.50	11	72.58	13
Detroit	58.00-60.00	60.17	12	64.07	38
Los Angeles	74.00	72.04	54	72.19	111
New York	59.00-62.00	60.91	23	61.87	50
Philadelphia	59.00-62.00	59.50	12	59.40	24
Pittsburgh	59.50-62.00	60.42	12	64.96	58
St. Louis	58.50	58.10	23	59.26	54
San Francisco	74.50	73.06	26	78.42	46

Composite Weighted Average

Loads	12/22/03	Change/Last Wk	12/15/03	12/23/02
527	65.73	-0.04	65.77	57.12

WOG BROILERS (without giblets) - prices paid per lb delvd to first receivers in trucklot and less than trucklot quantities.

REGIONS	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	LOADS
East	63.00-64.00	63.81	32
Central	58.00-66.50	64.17	61
West	60.00-65.00	64.41	33
Southeast Area FOB Dock Equivalent			
Mississippi	68.00-69.50	68.49	73

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 69.00 cents based on ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds.

LOADS	RANGE	MONDAY FINAL WTD AVG FOB DOCK OR EQUIVALENT
879	56.00-72.50	67.81

The Georgia f.o.b. dock confirmed final weighted average prices on ice packed parts:

ITEM	WTD AVG (CENTS PER POUND)	VOLUME (000 POUNDS)
LINE RUN TENDERS	199.50	1,259
BREASTS - B/S	169.00	4,846
BREASTS - WHOLE	89.50	1,359
THIGH MEAT - B/S	93.00	915
LEG QUARTERS	31.00	7,177
WINGS	103.50	2,602

THIS INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S POULTRY MARKET NEWS SERVICE

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was generally steady at best. Demand following the weekend was seasonally light to fair with limited trading as Christmas nears. Supplies of all sizes were more than sufficient for trade needs. In the parts structure, all items were at least adequate or available for the light and unaggressive buyer interest. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

NOTICE

The president has issued an Executive order declaring Friday, December 26, a holiday. In observance of the holidays, Poultry Market News will be closed December 25-26. Reports normally released on Friday, December 26, will be issued Wednesday, December 24, if sufficient information is available. If you have questions regarding this report, call the Des Moines, IA, office at (515)284-4471.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was generally fair at best entering the week. Offerings of all sizes were generally sufficient for current needs. Retail and distributive movement was seasonally light to no better than fair. The market tone was about steady. In the parts complex, bone-in breasts were available and boneless-skinless breasts were at least sufficient. Dark meat cuts were adequate. Wings were in good balance and clearing well.

WESTERN Final majority prices were unchanged from last Monday. Reported trading for this week's deliveries were at mainly unchanged prices on regular commitments and unchanged to higher prices on new negotiations. Buying activity was lighter with interest focused on more traditional holiday items. Offerings were fully adequate. Retailer demand was light to moderate at best. Dealers reported satisfactory weekend clearances. Trading reported on parts for this week's delivery: leg quarters bulk 29.5-32.5 and 4/10s 32.5-39, breast bone-in 80-88 and boneless 135-145, wings 101-105. The Los Angeles negotiated WOG weighted average was up .95 to 61.30 with the volume reported unchanged from last week at 27 loads.

MIDWEST Final majority prices were mostly unchanged, instances higher into Detroit; Ohio cities TFEWR. Whole fryer trade sentiment continued steady to barely steady. Offerings were sufficient for the light trade interest. All sectors noted demand as generally light to moderate; occasionally good into catering and fast food. Floor stocks adequate to in close balance. Weights were desirable. Parts trade was selective and limited on light to moderate offerings. The market tone was steady on all parts.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYERS Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was seasonally light to fair entering the week. Offerings were adequate to well balanced. Live supplies were moderate; weights were mostly desirable. Processor schedules were moderate to moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 61 to 71 cents. Trade sentiment was steady. In the parts complex, breast items were available and difficult to clear in some instances. Leg cuts were fully sufficient. Wings were clearing satisfactorily.

***BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA.**

BRANDED U.S. GRADE A

RANGE	59-75
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	64.58
NO. OF BOXES	8,455

*7 of 7 plants reporting.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS Trucklot buying activity was seasonally fair at best entering the week as dealers worked hand-to-mouth approaching the holiday. Offerings of breast items were available with discounting noted to stimulate interest. Dark meat cuts were generally sufficient. Wings ranged adequate to balanced and were clearing well. Retail and distributive interest was limited as traditional holiday items became the focal point of the market. The market tone was barely steady on bone-in breasts, cautiously steady on boneless-skinless breasts and about steady on the balance.

ICE PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER POUND

ITEM	CURRENT NEGOTIATED TRADING	WTD AVG	VOLUME /LBS
BREAST - B/S	145	147.07	558,640
TENDERLOINS	145	144.70	158,950
BREAST - WITH RIBS	75-76	84.14	121,920
BREAST - LINE RUN	75	75.46	85,200
LEGS	38-39	37.81	412,480
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	29-30	29.16	446,186
DRUMSTICKS	36-37	37.58	131,600
THIGHS	35-36	41.36	62,640
B/S THIGHS	85-86	87.45	81,960
WINGS (WHOLE)	93-94	100.02	215,760
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.96	27,080
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	36.01	14,920
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	69.17	24,300

INCLUDES NEW YORK CITY METROPOLITAN AREA, NORTHERN NEW JERSEY, MASSACHUSETTS, CONNECTICUT, RHODE ISLAND, AND PENNSYLVANIA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG).

* TODAY'S NEGOTIATED SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ARKANSAS BROILER/FRYER PARTS F.O.B. DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, ICED-PACKED, PRICES SHOWN ARE DAY OF SHIPMENT (INCLUDES CURRENT AND PRIOR NEGOTIATIONS), TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUME, CENTS PER POUND.

ITEM	LBS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WT. AVG
BREAST - B/S	1,178	126.00-192.00	130-137	136.48
TENDERLOINS	191	135.00-194.00	135-140	155.00
BREAST - WITH RIBS	251	66.00-92.00	66-70	72.31
FRONT HALVES	219	65.00-76.00	69-72	69.43
LEGS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	819	24.00-28.00	25.5-26	25.90
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	2,335	27.00-29.00	28	28.10
WINGS (WHOLE)	180	86.00-102.00	95-102	95.55
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	970	24.00-35.00	34-35	34.29

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATE	ACTUAL	AVG WTS	ACTUAL	AVG WTS
	12/22	12/18	12/18	12/15	12/11
ALA	4,086	3,831	5.20	3,851	5.19
ARK	5,379	5,279	5.01	5,145	4.98
DELMARVA	2,116	2,204	5.38	2,180	5.37
KY-LA-TN	2,015	1,981	4.81	1,955	4.86
MISS	3,037	3,060	5.33	2,878	5.26
NC	2,483	2,297	6.21	2,355	6.27
TEXAS	2,488	2,473	4.98	2,639	4.92
TOTAL	21,604	21,125	5.24	21,003	5.23
MON	21,604 (A)			21,003(A)	

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above. Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 22-Dec 2003 is estimated to be 32,322,000 up 2.55 percent from a week ago and up 9.62 percent from a year ago. (Last week 31,517,000 last year 29,486,000)

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS F.O.B. DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, ICED-PACKED, PRICES SHOWN ARE DAY OF SHIPMENT (INCLUDES CURRENT AND PRIOR NEGOTIATIONS), TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUME, CENTS PER POUND.

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	822	129.00-223.00	132-136	134.83
TENDERLOINS	223	140.00-216.00	140-147	150.82
BREAST - LINE RUN	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	131	32.00-50.00	35-37	35.74
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	565	25.00-29.00	25-26	25.57
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	870	27.00-32.00	29-31	29.89
WINGS (WHOLE)	295	99.00-107.00	99-102	101.31
WINGS (CUT)	368	110.00-119.00	110-115	112.99
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	140	73.00-100.00	-	85

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS

TRADING FOR DECEMBER 22, 2003 — F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
50.50 - 55.50	52.70	52.64

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYER ICE-PACKED POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES DELIVERED TO: IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, AND WI WEEK OF DEC 22-DEC 26, 2003

CENTS PER POUND	Price Per Lb.	Mostly
BREAST - B/S	136.00 - 159.00	137.00 - 147.00
BREAST - LINE RUN	76.00 - 100.00	76.00 - 81.00
LEGS	39.00 - 44.00	-
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	26.00 - 32.00	28.00 - 30.00
DRUMSTICKS	33.00 - 46.00	-
THIGHS	36.00 - 44.00	-
WINGS (WHOLE)	94.00 - 106.00	97.00 - 99.00
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	12.00 - 20.00	-
LIVERS	30.00 - 39.00	-
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	39.00 - 47.00	-

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY, DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS

	RANGE
WOGS 2# & UP - WHOLE	86
WOGS 2# & UP - CUT UP 8&9 PIECES	89-93

FROZEN HENS 5# & UP	
FROZEN DUCKS	
FROZEN SQUABS	600-625

DELIVERED TO RETAILERS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA)

FRESH FRYERS	91-97
ROASTERS 4# & UP	81-95
HENS UNDER 5#	
HENS OVER 5#	60-63

DUCKS	
RABBITS-WHOLE	
RABBITS-CUT UP	

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	101-103
ICE PACK	99-100
ROASTERS 4# & UP	89-105
ICE PACK	105
HENS OVER 5#	91
ICE PACK	89
DRY PACK	152-175
DUCKS	

EASTERN REGION MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN

F.O.B. SHIPPER DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN IN THE EASTERN REGION IN TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUMES, CENTS PER POUND, DELIVERY WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

19-DEC-2003				
CHICKEN				
PRICES (Cents per Pound)				
FAT CONTENT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	-	-	-	-
WTD AVERAGE				

CHICKEN, WITH SKIN ADDED

PRICES (Cents per Pound)				
FAT CONTENT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	15.50	16.00	374,000	320,000
WTD AVERAGE	15.50	16.00		
15-20%				
RANGE	18.00-19.00	11.00-14.50	1,580,000	364,000
WTD AVERAGE	18.29	12.01		
20% OR MORE				
RANGE	-	11.00	41,000	-
WTD AVERAGE		11.00		
* INCLUDES THE STATES OF CT, DE, FL, GA, MA, MD, ME, NC, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, SC, VA, VT, WV				

SOUTH CENTRAL HEAVY LIVE HEN Trading levels were generally unchanged from the past week. Demand was light for fully adequate offerings of spent hens. Schedules were reduced at processing plants. Finished sales had slowed. Trade sentiment was generally steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP)*

FINAL PRICE, GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 22-DEC-03

	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	6.75-11.75 CENTS/LB.	8.25-9	8.94

*WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

CENTRAL REGION MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN

F.O.B. SHIPPER DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN IN THE CENTRAL REGION IN TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUMES, CENTS PER POUND, DELIVERY WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

19-DEC-2003				
CHICKEN				
PRICES (Cents per Pound)				
FAT CONTENT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	-	-	-	-
WTD AVERAGE				

CHICKEN, WITH SKIN ADDED

PRICES (Cents per Pound)				
FAT CONTENT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	20.00	14.00	203,200	-
WTD AVERAGE	20.00	14.00		
15-20%				
RANGE	12.00-14.50	10.00-15.00	1,399,600	1,012,800
WTD AVERAGE	13.10	11.43		
20% OR MORE				
RANGE	-	-	-	-
WTD AVERAGE				
* INCLUDES THE STATES OF AL, AR, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MI, MN, MO, MS, ND, NE, OK, OH, SD, TN, TX, WI				

SOUTHEAST LIVE HEAVY HEN Majority prices were unchanged to slightly lower when compared to a week earlier. Demand was moderate for the about adequate to adequate offerings. Processing schedules were reduced due to holiday schedules. Supplies of finished product were clearing satisfactorily. The undertone was steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP)*

FINAL PRICE, GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 22-DEC-03

	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	6-9 CENTS/LB.	8-9	8.47
AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT		
FOB PLANT	TOO FEW TO REPORT		

*WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

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